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THE
FIRST PART
OF THE
AUTHENTICATED PROOFS
OF
THE LEGITIMACY



OF HER HIGHNESS
OLIVE,
PRINCESS OF CUMBERLAND,

70

And by virtue of his late Majesty's Creation
and Royal Authority,
DUCHESS OF LANCASTER.

DEDICATED TO
THE ENGLISH NATION.

London:

PRINTED FOR HER HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OLIVE OF
CUMBERLAND,

By W. Lake, 60, Old Street, near the City Road.

(1830). 30. 949.

TO THE
ENGLISH NATION.

**With sentiments of Patriotic regard
and respect, I dedicate the following
Proofs of my Royal Legitimacy.**

OLIVE.

London, March 10th.

The First Edition of this Work was Published some years since, and was Dedicated to His Royal Highness the late Duke of York.

OBSERVATION.

It is proper to inform the British public, that the Certificates herein stated were duly proved and authenticated at the chambers of Lord Chief-Justice Abbot, Serjeant's Inn ; at the Court of King's Bench ; and at the public office of the Chancery ; and the different hand-writings there sworn to, before Sir John Simeon, one of the Masters in Chancery ; and in the Prerogative Court of his Grace Archbishop of Canterbury.

PROOFS.

The hand-writing of Doctor Wilmot proved on oath by Mrs. Anne Maria Kennett, the niece of Doctor Wilmot, and also by the Rev. Doctor Clarke.

The hand-writing or Sign Manual of His late Majesty George the Third, was proved on oath, by the late Sir Watkin Lewes, Alderman of London, previous to his death styled the Father of that honourable City : also by

Sir Gerard Noel, Bart.; by John Vancouver, Esq.; and by General Augustus Wetherall, formerly Comptroller of the Household of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

The hand-writing of John Dunning, Esq., Solicitor-General to His late Majesty, afterwards created Lord Ashburton, proved on oath by S. Griffin, Esq. and by T. Lloyd, Esq. And the said hand-writing of Mr. Dunning having been shewn to Doctor Tucker, formerly auditor to the late Lady Ashburton of Devonshire, he acknowledged that he was well acquainted with the late Lord Ashburton's writing, and that he had no hesitation in declaring the same to be genuine. Doctor Tucker informed me that he had stated the same to Sir John Copley, (now Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst,) in 1822.

The hand-writing of the late Lord Warwick, proved on oath by John Dickenson, by

In the year 1821, Mr. Broughton, of the Foreign Office, Downing Street, and John Bennet, Esq. Member for Wiltshire, expressed their satisfaction as to the genuineness of the Sign Manual of His late Majesty, affixed to my papers.

**John Vancouver, by Thomas Baylis, and by
J. George, Esqrs.**

**The Identity of the Princess Olive proved
on oath by the following persons, natives of
Warwick :—**

Thomas Baylis, Esq.	John Barnet, Esq.
Mrs. Baylis.	and
Mrs. Anne Maria Kennett.	George Clarke Pic- kering, Esq.

The present Earl Darnley was confidentially shewn some of my papers just before the late Duke and the present Duchess of Kent came to England in 1819, and the late Duke of Kent communicated the legitimacy of my birth to the following gentlemen during the life of His late Majesty George the Third :

**Robert Owen, Esq. of Harmony, America.
General Augustus Wetherall.
Edward Alderson, Esq., Solicitor, Lincoln's
Inn.
The Rev. Wm. Groves, Rector of King's
North, Kent.**

William Dickenson, Esq., Magistrate for Middlesex.

Captain Conroy; and also to Hillman, his faithful domestic, continued in the Establishment of the Duchess of Kent till 1829.

And the Duke of Sussex, in my presence, at the residence of John Dickenson, Esq., No. 32, Devonshire Place, Portland Place, in the year 1821, declared, upon his honour, to Mr. Dickenson, and the Rev. Mr. Brett, that he was perfectly satisfied of the genuineness of his late royal father's hand-writing, and of his brother the Duke of Kent. The Duke of Sussex even said more, for he solemnly promised that he would see the Duke of York *that day*; and before he set off to Tunbridge the next morning, that Mr. Dickenson should, as my friend, hear from him; but something must have unfortunately occurred and prevented His Royal Highness from sending to Mr. Dickenson, as no communication took place!

General Augustus Wetherall, formerly the Comptroller to his late Royal Highness the

Duke of Kent, and to the Duchess his Royal Consort, one year previous to his lamented death, saw the certificates of my royal parents' marriage, and of my birth, by the private command of that excellent Prince. The hand-writing of the late Duke of Kent has been proved on oath by General Wetherall, and by the Rev. William Groves, formerly Chaplain to his late Royal Highness; also afterwards, by Sir Watkin Lewes, &c.

Before I knew my Royal Birth, a circumstance having introduced me to the knowledge of His late Majesty in 1804; as I was, early one morning, making a drawing of the Castle of Windsor, His Majesty asked me, among other questions, my maiden name, which I informed His Majesty was Olive, &c. &c. &c.;—he appeared to be greatly agitated. A few days afterwards the Earl of Harcourt paid me a visit and presented to me One Thousand Pounds from the King, saying I was to have more by applying to himself, &c. &c. The Thousand Pounds was in One Hundred Pound Notes, and Lord Harcourt took them out of a curious Snuff Box; a Snuff Box which his Lordship told me was a great curiosity, being one of the smallest Oil Paintings that Moreland the celebrated Artist had ever painted: the subject was a rural Landscape and Figures! By His late Majesty's conscientious and gracious donation, it is evident that when he learnt my name was Olive, &c. &c. he knew me to be his injured Niece!

*Authenticated Proofs of the Legitimacy of the
Princess Olive of Cumberland.*

No. 1.

(Copy.)

GEORGE R.

I hereby certify that I married Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, to Olive Wilmot, March the 4th, 1767, and that such marriage was legally solemnized according to the rites and ceremonies of the church of England.

J. WILMOT.

J. DUNNING.

CHATHAM.

Olive, the daughter of Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, and Olive his lawful wife, born April 3rd, 1772.

J. WILMOT.

ROBERT WILMOT.

No. 2.

(Copy.)

Parish of St. Mary's, Warwick, 1772.

Privately Baptized, April 3rd, Olive, the daughter of Henry Frederick Guelph, Duke of Cumberland, and Olive his wife.

J. WILMOT.

Witness.—ROBERT WILMOT.

This is a true Certificate.

J. WILMOT.

No. 3.

(Copy.)

April 4th, 1772.

G. R.

Whereas it is our Royal Will that Olive our niece be re-baptised as Olive Wilmot, to operate during our Royal Pleasure.

To Lord Chatham.

The late Earl of Liverpool, after several applications had been made by myself and others to his Lordship, as to my Birth-right, returned for answer, that it *was a Family matter*, wherein Ministers had no control—adding, that Ministers could not advise His Majesty further on the subject.

No. 4.

(Copy.)

Princess Olive bears on her right side a large mole, and has a mark of fruit upon her back, near the neck.

J. WILMOT.
ROBERT WILMOT.
J. DUNNING.

No. 5.

(Copy.)

GEORGE R.

We hereby are pleased to create Olive of Cumberland Duchess of Lancaster, and to grant our Royal Authority for Olive our said Niece, to bear and use the title and arms of Lancaster, should she be in existence at the period of our royal demise.

Given at our Palace of St. James's,
May 21st, 1773.

CHATHAM.
J. DUNNING.



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I bind myself by my heirs and executors to pay the said 2000*l.* so received, which I am indebted, principal and interest, up to this period.

WARWICK.

Witness—EDWARD.

No. 9.

(*Copy.*)

I solemnly testify my satisfaction as to the proofs of Princess Olive of Cumberland's birth, and declare that my royal parent's Sign Manual affixed to the Certificates of my cousin's birth, are, to the best of my comprehension and belief, the genuine hand-writing of the King my royal father. Thus I constitute Olive Princess of Cumberland the guardian and the director of my daughter Alexandrina's education, from the age of four years and upwards, in case of my death, and from the Duchess of Kent being so unacquainted with the mode of English education; and in case my wife departs this life in my daughter's minority, I constitute and appoint my cousin Olive the sole guardian of my daughter until she is of age.

EDWARD.

London, November 1st, 1819.

A few days before the Duke's death, the original of which the following is a copy, was delivered to the Princess Olive, by the hands of A. Hillman, one of his servants, in a letter received from Devonshire, at my residence, Cumberland Place.

No. 10.

(Copy.)

Should I not recover, I solemnly recommend Mrs. Olive Serres, otherwise Olive Princess of Cumberland, to my brother the Prince Regent, as the legitimate daughter of my late uncle, the Duke of Cumberland.

EDWARD.

January 15th.

I stop this only to say that I am very ill, but should I not get better, confide in the Duchess, my wife, who will for my sake assist you until you obtain your royal rights. God Almighty bless you, my beloved cousin, prays,

EDWARD.

The Duke of Kent died 23d of January, 1820.

*The Bequest of His late Majesty to the
Princess Olive.*

(Copy.)

St. James's.

GEORGE R.

In case of our Royal demise, we give and bequeath to Olive, our brother of Cumberland's daughter, the sum of Fifteen Thousand Pounds, commanding our heir and successor to pay the same privately to our said niece for her use, as a recompense for the misfortunes she may have known through her father.

Witness—DUNNING.

CHATHAM.

WARWICK.

June 2nd, 1774.

In the Month of July, 1820, Lord Liverpool referred my Solicitor, with myself, to Sir John Leach, who received us at his Private Chambers Lincoln's Inn, to whom were submitted the Proofs of my Royal Birth, and various papers bearing the Sign Manual of His late Majesty, the Duke of Kent, and Earls Chatham and Warwick; Sir John Leach perused those Documents and behaved very politely—I requested that he would do me the favour to make my case known to His Majesty.—I was afterwards informed he had done so.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

**In the Goods of His late Majesty,
King George the Third, deceased.**

31st May, 1822.

Appeared personally, Her Highness Olive, the natural and lawful daughter of His late Royal Highness Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, deceased ; and made oath, that in the beginning of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent informed the deponent that George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, with whom the deponent had been well acquainted from her infancy, had told him, the said Duke of Kent, that he the said Earl of Warwick wished to communicate to the deponent some important particulars regarding this

November 28th, 1822, a regular Petition was presented to the Lord Chancellor Eldon, for the knowledge and gracious consideration of His Majesty as to the Bequest of £15,000 ;— Lord Eldon retained such Petition six weeks, when it was returned by his Lordship's Secretary, saying Lord Eldon had no jurisdiction in the case.

deponent's birth, the purport of which, he the said Duke of Kent, at the same time, intimated to the deponent; and the deponent saith, that one evening, happening in or about the month of May in the same year, the Duke of Kent being at this deponent's house, No. 74, Seymour Place, Bryanston Square, in the county of Middlesex, the said Earl of Warwick also came there, and in the presence of the said Duke of Kent, after requiring and receiving a most solemn pledge on the part of the deponent and the said Duke of Kent, not to divulge the purport of the communication he was about to make until after the death of His then Majesty King George the Third, informed the deponent of her illustrious birth, to wit, that she the deponent was and is the natural and lawful daughter of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Cumberland, deceased, and that the proofs thereof had been deposited with him the said Earl of Warwick, for the benefit of the deponent, in case she survived His Majesty, by the late Earl of Chatham and the late Reverend Doctor Wilmot, under a solemn pledge to preserve them safely, and to keep them secret, until the decease of His said Majesty; and he, the said Earl of Warwick, further informed the

deponent that the several papers and documents were then at Warwick Castle, and that, apprehending his own health to be precarious, he had considered it incumbent on him to place the same in safe custody; and the deponent saith, that shortly after the premises, the said Earl of Warwick, having, as he informed the deponent, gone to Warwick Castle for the documents, delivered the papers into the deponent's hands, part of them were so delivered in the Duke of Kent's presence, and amongst other things, he delivered to her the paper-writing hereunto annexed, beginning thus:—
 "George R. St. James's. In case of our royal demise," ending thus "She may have known through her father," bearing date "June 2d, 1774," and having the names and titles "J. Dunning," "Chatham," and "Warwick," respectively set, and subscribed as witnesses thereto. And the deponent saith, that, save and except the wearing of the lower margin of the said paper, by reason of the deponent's keeping the said paper constantly about her own person to secure the same, and save and except also the pasting of other paper at the back thereof, in order to preserve the same, and also cutting off the corners to prevent tearing, the said paper

is now in the same plight and condition as when delivered to the deponent as aforesaid ; and the deponent saith, that she doth verily and in her conscience believe all the several documents so delivered to her as aforesaid, to be true and genuine. That she is perfectly well acquainted with the manner and character of hand-writing and subscription of the aforesaid George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, deceased, from having seen him write and subscribe his title " Warwick ; " and the deponent verily and in her conscience believes the title " Warwick " subscribed as a witness to the said paper, the abbreviation and word " St. James's " at the beginning thereof, and also the whole body, series, and contents of the said paper, to be all of the proper hand-writing and subscription of the said George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, deceased ; and that she doth verily and in her conscience believe the name and letter " George R. " written at the head of the paper writing hereinbefore particularly referred to, was and is of the proper hand-writing and subscription, and the true and proper Sign Manual of His late Majesty King George the Third, deceased. That the letter and name " J. Dunning, " also subscribed as a witness, were

and are of the proper hand-writing and subscription of John Dunning, Esquire, who was Solicitor-General to His late Majesty, and was afterwards created Lord Ashburton, and died in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; and that the title "Chatham," also subscribed as a witness, was and is of the proper hand-writing and subscription of the late William Earl of Chatham, deceased, who died in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight. And the deponent lastly saith that the said Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick informed the deponent that His said late Majesty set and subscribed his Royal Sign Manual to the said paper, in the presence of him the said Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick.

OLIVE,

Same day, her Highness Olive,
Princess of Cumberland, was
duly sworn to the truth of
this affidavit,

Before me,

J. DODSON, Surrogate,

Present, JOHN BAYFORD, Notary, Public.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

In the Goods of his late Majesty,
George the Third, deceased.

April 17th, 1822.

Appeared personally, Thomas Lloyd, of Spencer-street, near Northampton-square, in the county of Middlesex, Gentleman, formerly of Gray's-Inn, Attorney at Law, and made oath that he knew, and was well acquainted personally with, the late John Dunning, Esquire, who formerly was an eminent barrister at law, in this country, and who was afterwards created Baron Ashburton, since deceased.

His late Majesty through several serious State occurrences, was compelled to act contrary to the goodness of his heart, in regard to my Royal Self; but His Majesty, during Lord Chatham's Life, administered to my comforts out of his Privy Purse; and never received Mrs. Horton as Duchess of Cumberland, even after my Mother's demise, at Court.

For many of the years that the said John Dunning so practised as a barrister at law, he, this Deponent, then having frequently occasion as an attorney at law, which this deponent then was, to see the said John Dunning personally, professionally, when he so practised as a barrister at law as aforesaid. And the deponent saith, that during the time aforesaid, he, the deponent, was in the habit of frequently seeing the said John Dunning, afterwards Baron Ashburton, write, and also subscribe his name, or signature, "J. Dunning," and thereby became well acquainted with his manner and character of hand-writing, and subscription of his said name, or signature, "J. Dunning." And the deponent, having now carefully inspected the signature, "J. Dunning," set and subscribed as a writing to the paper now hereunto annexed, beginning thus, "George R. St. James's," ending thus, "she may have known through her father," and bearing date "June 2d, 1774," saith he doth verily, and in his conscience, believe the said signature, "J. Dunning," so set and subscribed to the said paper as a witness, to be of the proper hand-writing and subscription of the said

John Dunning, who was afterwards Baron Ashburton, now deceased.

THOMAS LLOYD.

Same day, the said Thomas Lloyd
was duly sworn to the truth of
this affidavit,

Before me,

JOSEPH PHILLIMORE, Surrogate,

Present, JOHN BAYFORD,

Notary Public.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

In the Goods of his late Majesty,
George the Third, deceased.

March 19th, 1822.

Appeared personally, Samuel Griffin, of Palsgrave-place, near Temple Bar, in the county of Middlesex, wine merchant, and made oath, that in the year 1771, he came into the service of John Dunning, Esquire, who formerly held the office of Solicitor General to

his late Majesty King George the Third, and who was created Baron Ashburton of Ashburton, in the year 1782; and the deponent continued with him, first as servant, and afterwards as clerk, until his death in the year 1783. And the deponent saith, that during such time the deponent was in the constant habit, for many years, of seeing the said John Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton, write, and subscribe his name, and thereby became well acquainted with his manner and character of hand-writing and subscription; and the deponent having now carefully inspected the signature "J. Dunning," set and subscribed as a witness to the paper writing now hereunto annexed, beginning thus, "George R. St James's," ending thus, "the misfortunes she may have known through her father," and bearing date "June 2d, 1774," saith that he doth verily and of his conscience believe the

It is proper that I should state that, I considered the proceedings in the Prerogative Court, on His late Majesty's Bequest, as a Suit to recover on the Goods and Chattels of His late Majesty—that was my intention, and in no way to give offence to His present Majesty.

said signature "J. Dunning," so set¹ and subscribed to the said paper, as a witness, to be of the proper hand-writing and subscription of the said John Dunning, afterwards Baron Ashburton, deceased.

S. GRIFFIN.

Same day, the said Samuel Griffin was duly sworn to the truth hereof,

Before me,

SAMUEL R. MEYRICK, Surrogate,

Present, JOHN BAYFORD,

Notary Public.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

In the Goods of his late Majesty,

George the Third, deceased.

May 13th, 1822.

Appeared personally, John Dickenson, of Devonshire-place, in the parish of St. Mary-le-

bone, in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, and made oath that he is the only acting executor of the late George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, who departed this life in the year 1816; and this deponent saith that he knew, and was intimately acquainted with, the said George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick for about thirty years before and down to the time of his death, and the deponent hath become perfectly well acquainted with his manner and character of hand-writing and subscription, from having frequently seen him write, and subscribe his title "Warwick;" and the deponent having now carefully viewed and inspected the paper writing now hereunto annexed, beginning thus, "George R. St. James's," ending thus, "the misfortunes she may have known through her father," bearing date "June 2d, 1774," and having the title "Warwick" subscribed as a witness thereto, saith that he doth verily and in his conscience believe the whole body, series, and contents of the said paper, and every part of the same, together with the date thereof, and the title "Warwick," so as aforesaid subscribed as a witness, save only the name and letter "George R." subscribed at the

head thereof, and the letter and name "J. Dunning," and the title "Chatham," also subscribed as witnesses, to be all of the proper handwriting and subscription of the said George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, deceased.

J. DICKENSON.

Same day, the said John Dickenson,
Esquire, was duly sworn to the
truth of this affidavit,

Before me,

J. HAGGARD, Surrogate,

Present, J. BAYFORD,

Notary Public.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

In the Goods of His Majesty, King
George the Third, deceased.

May 7th, 1822.

Appeared personally, John Vancouver, of
Woolwich, in the County of Kent, Esquire,
and made oath, that for the space of seven-

teen years or thereabouts, he, this deponent, was deputy customer and deputy collector of the customs, at the port of Lynn, in the county of Norfolk, and he quitted such situation in or about the latter end of the year 1788, or beginning of the year 1789, as he now best recollects; and the deponent saith, that during the time aforesaid, he, this deponent, had frequent and continual opportunities of seeing the Sign Manual of His late Majesty King George the Third, to many official documents which passed officially through this deponent's hands, and upon which documents the deponent, and all others connected with the office of this deponent, invariably acted. And the deponent saith, that by reason of such documents under His said Majesty's Sign Manual, so passing through his hands for many years, he, this deponent, became well acquainted with the manner and character of His said late Majesty's hand-writing, in the signature of his Name or his Sign Manual. And the deponent having with care and attention inspected and examined the paper writing now hereunto annexed, beginning thus, "George R., St. James's," ending thus, "the misfortunes she

may have known through her father," and bearing date "2d June, 1774," saith, that he doth verily and in his conscience believe the name and letter "George R." set and written at the head of the said paper, to be the true and proper Sign Manual of his said late Majesty King George the Third, deceased. And the deponent further saith, that for about sixteen years immediately preceding the death of the late George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, who departed this life in the year 1816, he, this deponent, well knew, and was very intimately acquainted with, the said George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, and from very frequently seeing him write and subscribe his title in the course of franking letters, and otherwise, and also from habits of constant correspondence with him, he, the deponent became well acquainted with his manner and character of hand-writing and subscription; and the deponent, again referring to the paper writing hereinbefore described, and having carefully viewed and examined the same, saith that he doth verily and in his conscience believe the whole body, series, and contents, of the said paper, and the title-

"Warwick" subscribed as a witness thereto, save and except only the name and letter "George R." before mentioned, and the title "Chatham," and letter and name "J. Dunning," subscribed respectively as witnesses to the said paper, to be all of the proper hand-writing and subscription of the said George Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, deceased,

J. VANCOUVER.

Same day, the said John Vancouver was duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit,

Before me,

S. LUSHINGTON, Surrogate,

Present, JOHN BAYFORD,

Notary Public.

Sir John Nichol, delivering his judgment as to the matter of His Majesty's Bequest, stated in the Prerogative Court, as the Bequest had been duly authenticated according to Law, that Probate would have been granted by that

Court had the Suit been at issue with any personage or persons beneath the Reigning Sovereign ; but as the King was a party therein, and superior to the interference of the Law, that he, Sir John Nichol, recommended the matter to the consideration of the Chancellor.

OLIVE.























































